IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the following requested inserts, please note that the line numbering is made reference to as properly renumbered.

Please insert the following heading at page 1, between lines 2 and 4:

Field of the Invention:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 4-11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to a device for treating forage comprising a rotor driven in rotation about an axis, which rotor consists of a support and of at least one conditioning element, the ~~said~~ conditioning element comprising at least one active part intended to work the forage and a first connecting part intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element to the ~~said~~ support by means of a first connection.

Please insert the following heading at page 1, between lines 11 and 13:

Background of the Invention:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 23-28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Document FR 2 440 145 describes a mower comprising a cutting mechanism intended to cut a standing product, for example grass. To do this, the ~~said~~ cutting mechanism has four discs arranged in a transverse line of the ~~said~~ mower and driven in rotation about a respective vertical axis.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 30 to page 2, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This known mower also comprises a treatment device intended to reduce the time taken for the cut forage to dry. To do this, the ~~said~~ forage treatment device comprises a rotor arranged behind the ~~said~~ discs and driven in rotation about a horizontal axis. This rotor consists of conditioning elements and of a support. Each conditioning element comprises, at one of its ends, a connecting part. The connecting part allows the corresponding conditioning element to be connected pivotally to the ~~said~~ support by means of an articulation the axis of which is parallel to the axis of rotation of the ~~said~~ rotor. Because of the centrifugal force generated by the rotation of the ~~said~~ support, the conditioning element during work extends in a substantially radial direction.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 6-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, during work, the forage coming from the cutting mechanism is carried, by an active part of the conditioning element, along a conditioning sheet to finally be ejected to the rear of the ~~said~~ mower. The passage of the forage against the ~~said~~ conditioning sheet causes a breaking-up of the stalks of the forage that encourages rapid drying of the latter.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 14-25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The brochure **"Faucheuses-Conditionneuses frontales FC 15 280F / FC 313F Lift Control"** [Front-mounted mower-conditioners FC 280F/FC 313F - lift control] published by the Applicant company, discloses another mower equipped with a forage treatment device. In that document, the ~~said~~ forage treatment device also comprises a rotor driven in rotation

about a horizontal axis. This rotor consists of a support and of V-shaped conditioning elements. Each conditioning element this time is connected rigidly to the ~~said~~ support by a central connecting part. The two ends of the V-shape extend in a radial position to form an active part.

Please insert the following heading on page 3, before line 1:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 1-4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object of the present invention is to avoid a conditioning element being able to cause damage or injury should the first connection connecting the ~~said~~ conditioning element to the ~~said~~ support break.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 6-10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To this end, the forage treatment device according to the present invention is characterized in that a second connection is provided, this being intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element to the ~~said~~ support should the ~~said~~ first connection break.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 12-17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Should the ~~said~~ first connection break, the ~~said~~ second connection advantageously makes it possible to maintain a connection between the ~~said~~ conditioning element and the

~~said~~ support. Thus, the ~~said~~ conditioning element will not be ejected from the rotor. The risks of damage and injury ~~are~~ is therefore eliminated.

Please insert the following heading at page 3, between lines 17 and 19:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 36-37, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Figure 4 depicts, [[to]] on a different scale, a conditioning element of the rotor of Figure 3;

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 4-7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Figure 6 depicts, viewed in the direction of arrow VI defined in Figure 3, and [[to]] on a different scale, a portion of the surface of the tube of Figure 3;

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 8-11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- Figure 7 depicts, viewed from the front in the direction of arrow VII defined in Figure 2, a ~~part~~ partial view of another rotor according to the present invention; and

Please insert the following heading at page 4, between lines 15 and 17:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 17-26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 depicts, in a view from above, an agricultural mower (1) according to the present invention. The ~~said~~ mower (1) is hitched to a motor vehicle (2) which pulls 20 it in a sense and direction of forward travel indicated by the arrow (3). In the remainder of the description, the ideas of "front" and "rear", "in front of" and "behind" are defined with respect to the direction of forward travel and the ideas of "right" and "left" are defined when viewing the ~~said~~ mower (1) from behind in the direction of forward travel (3).

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 28-35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a way known to those skilled in the art, the ~~said~~ mower (1) comprises a chassis (4) which rests on the ground (12) by means of two wheels (5). The ~~said~~ chassis (4) is connected to the rear end of a drawbar (6) by means of a central articulation (7) of substantially vertical axis (7a). For its part, the front end of the ~~said~~ drawbar (6) is connected to the lower hitching bars (8) of the ~~said~~ motor vehicle (2).

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 37 to page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figure 1, the ~~said~~ mower (1) is arranged substantially in the continuation of the ~~said~~ motor vehicle (2). This configuration is used when the ~~said~~ mower (1) is being transported. During work, the ~~said~~ central articulation (7) allows ~~said~~ the mower (1) to be offset to the right or to the left of the ~~said~~ motor vehicle (2) by means of a ram (9). The ~~said~~ mower (1) can thus advantageously operate back and forth.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 8-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a way also known to those skilled in the art, the ~~said~~ mower (1) additionally comprises a mowing unit (10) connected to the ~~said~~ chassis (4) by means of a suspension (11). The ~~said~~ suspension (11) allows the ~~said~~ mowing unit (10) to follow unevennesses of the ground (12) independently of the ~~said~~ chassis (4). Advantageously, the ~~said~~ suspension (11) also allows at least some of the weight of the ~~said~~ mowing unit (10) to be transferred onto the ~~said~~ chassis (4). The ~~said~~ mowing unit (10) is made up of a cutting mechanism (13) and of a forage treatment device (14).

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 20-27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~said~~ cutting mechanism (13) is intended to cut a standing product, for example grass. To do this, the ~~said~~ cutting mechanism (13) comprises several cutting members (15) driven in rotation about a respective substantially vertical axis. The ~~said~~ cutting members (15), depicted symbolically in Figure 1, are advantageously arranged in a line transversal to the ~~said~~ direction of forward travel (3).

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 29-36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As illustrated in Figure 2, each cutting member (15) supports two cutting elements (16). During work, the ~~said~~ cutting elements (16), also called knives, describe circles in a substantially horizontal plane. The relatively high speed of movement of the ~~said~~ cutting elements (16), due essentially to the rotation of the ~~said~~ cutting members (15), allows the ~~said~~ standing product to be cut.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 38 to page 6, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For its part, the ~~said~~ forage treatment device (14) is intended to accelerate the drying of the product cut by the ~~said~~ cutting mechanism (13). To do this, the ~~said~~ forage treatment device (14) comprises a rotor (17) driven in rotation about an axis (17a) that is substantially horizontal and transversal to the ~~said~~ direction of forward travel (3). The direction in which the ~~said~~ rotor (17) rotates is indicated on Figures 2 and 3 by the arrow (18).

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 9-16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

During work, the ~~said~~ rotor (17) carries the forage coming from the ~~said~~ cutting mechanism (13) along a conditioning sheet. The passage of the forage against the ~~said~~ conditioning sheet causes breaking-up that encourages rapid drying of the cut product. As the ~~said~~ conditioning sheet is within the competence of the person skilled in the art, it has therefore not been depicted in the figures.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 18-25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a way known to those skilled in the art, the ~~said~~ mower (1) also comprises transmission elements intended to transmit rotational movement from a power take-off of the ~~said~~ motor vehicle (2) as far as the ~~said~~ cutting elements (16) and the ~~said~~ rotor (17). These transmission elements are, in particular, telescopic shafts with universal joints (19), gearboxes (20), pulleys (21) and belts (22).

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 27-29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Certain elements of the ~~said~~ mower (1) have been depicted only partially in Figures 1 and 2 in order to make the present invention easier to understand.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 31 to page 7, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to carry the forage effectively along, the ~~said~~ rotor (17) consists of a support (24) and of at least one conditioning element (23). Indeed, each conditioning element (23) is provided with an active part (26) which, during work, extends in an at least substantially radial direction with respect to the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (17a). The ~~said~~ active parts (26) thus act like clutches to drive the forage along the ~~said~~ conditioning sheet. Each conditioning element (23) also comprises a first connecting part (27) intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) to the ~~said~~ support (24) by means of a first connection.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 5-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the first exemplary embodiment depicted in Figures 1 to 6, the ~~said~~ first connection pivotally connects the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) to the ~~said~~ support (24). By contrast, in the second exemplary embodiment depicted in Figures 7 and 8, the ~~said~~ first connection rigidly connects the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) to the ~~said~~ support (124). The second exemplary embodiment will be described in greater detail later on.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 14-23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the first exemplary embodiment, the ~~said~~ first connection is achieved by means of an articulation (28) of the pivot type and of axis (28a). As a preference, the axis (28a) of the ~~said~~ articulation (28) is at least substantially parallel to the axis of rotation (17a) of the ~~said~~ rotor (17). Should an obstacle be encountered, the ~~said~~ active part (26) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) can advantageously retract, pivoting backwards with respect to the direction of rotation (18) of the ~~said~~ rotor (17).

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More specifically and as depicted in Figure 3, the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) has a cylindrical shape of longitudinal axis (27a). For its part, the ~~said~~ support (24) comprises at least one connecting element (25) equipped with a mark of a shape that complements the cylindrical shape of the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27). The ~~said~~ support (24) also consists of a tube (38) the longitudinal axis of which is coincident with the axis of rotation (17a) of the ~~said~~ rotor (17). The ~~said~~ connecting element (25) is fixed to the surface of the ~~said~~ tube (38), advantageously removably. When this exemplary embodiment of the ~~said~~ rotor (17) is being assembled, the cylindrical shape of the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27) sits in the mark of the ~~said~~ connecting element (25) so as to achieve the ~~said~~ articulation (28). Advantageously, the axis (27a) of the ~~said~~ connecting part (27) is at least substantially coincident with the axis (28a) of the ~~said~~ articulation (28).

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 7-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the exemplary embodiment depicted more specifically in Figures 4 and 5, the ~~said~~ active part (26) of the said conditioning elements (23) comprises two substantially identical fingers (33). The ~~said~~ fingers (33) are offset one with respect to the other in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis (27a) of the ~~said~~ connecting part (27), while at the same time remaining substantially mutually parallel. In addition, the ~~said~~ fingers (33) are substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (27a) of the ~~said~~ connecting part (27). The ~~said~~ fingers (33) are also curved slightly so as to be able easily to release the forage after the passage of the ~~said~~ conditioning sheet.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 22-29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each end of the ~~said~~ cylindrical shape (27) extends as far as a respective finger (33). The ~~said~~ active part (26) and the ~~said~~ connecting part (27) thus substantially form a U. The ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) therefore is at no risk of excessive translational movement with respect to the corresponding ~~said~~ connecting element (25) along the axis (28a) of the ~~said~~ articulation (28).

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 31-35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to an important feature of the present invention, a second connection is provided, this being intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) to the ~~said~~ support (24) should the ~~said~~ first connection break.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 37 to page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the first embodiment, should the ~~said~~ first connection break, the ~~said~~ second connection takes place more precisely between the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) and the ~~said~~ tube (38). As a preference, the ~~said~~ second connection takes place between a second connecting part (29) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) and the ~~said~~ tube (38).

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To achieve this, and as shown by Figures 4 and 5, the ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) comprises a body (51) and a head (52). The ~~said~~ body (51) is connected to the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27) and the ~~said~~ head (52) is advantageously distant from the ~~said~~ axis (27a) of the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27). In addition, the width (55) of the ~~said~~ head (52), viewed along the ~~said~~ axis (27a) exceeds the width (53) of the ~~said~~ body (51). As a preference, the ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) extends at least substantially at right angles to the ~~said~~ first connecting part (27). In the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figures 4 and 5, the ~~said~~ head (52) is produced by means of an elastically deformable element inserted transversely into the ~~said~~ body (51). According to another not depicted exemplary embodiment, the ~~said~~ body (51) and the ~~said~~ head (52) are made of one and the same piece.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 24 to page 10, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Advantageously, the ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) extends at least partially into the ~~said~~ tube (38). The ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) is thus protected, particularly against repeated contact with the cut product. To do this, in the first exemplary embodiment depicted

more specifically in Figure 6, the surface of the ~~said~~ tube (38) has at least one notch (50). The ~~said~~ notch (50) is made up of an entry area (56) of which the width (57), viewed along the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (17a), is greater than or equal to the ~~said~~ width (55) of the ~~said~~ head (52). The ~~said~~ entry area (56) allows the ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) to be introduced at least partially into the ~~said~~ tube (38). The ~~said~~ notch (50) also comprises a holding area (58) the width (59) of which, viewed along the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (17a), is less than the ~~said~~ width (55) of the ~~said~~ head (52) but greater than or equal to the ~~said~~ width (53) of the ~~said~~ body (51). The ~~said~~ holding area (58) of the ~~said~~ tube (38) is intended to collaborate with the ~~said~~ second connecting part (29) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) so as to produce the ~~said~~ second connection. The ~~said~~ notch (50) preferably extends in a plane at least substantially perpendicular to the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (17a). In addition, when viewed in the direction of rotation (18) of the ~~said~~ support (24), the ~~said~~ entry area (56) is advantageously arranged forward of the ~~said~~ holding area (58).

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 14-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to make the present invention easier to understand, the sectioned view of the ~~said~~ rotor (17), depicted in Figure 3, comprises just two conditioning elements (23) connected to the ~~said~~ tube (38) by means of a respective connecting element (25).

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 20-27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The conditioning element (23) situated to the left in Figure 3 is depicted in the normal work position. The ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) is therefore connected to the ~~said~~ support (24) by means of the ~~said~~ first connection. The ~~said~~ head (52) of the ~~said~~ second connecting

part (29) is not in contact with the ~~said~~ tube (38). The ~~said~~ second connection is therefore without effect.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

By contrast, the conditioning element (23) situated to the right in Figure 3 is depicted following breakage of the ~~said~~ first connection. The ~~said~~ head (52) comes into contact with the interior surface of the ~~said~~ tube (38). As the width (59) of the ~~said~~ holding area (58) is less than the width (55) of the ~~said~~ head (52), the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) will therefore not be ejected from the ~~said~~ support (24). Any excessive movement, in directions other than the radial direction, of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) with respect to the ~~said~~ support (24) is eliminated by contact between the ~~said~~ body (51) and the edges of the ~~said~~ holding area (58). The ~~said~~ conditioning element (23) situated to the right is therefore connected to the ~~said~~ support (24) by means of the ~~said~~ second connection.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 7-11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As one of the possible causes of breakage of the ~~said~~ first connection is breakage of the ~~said~~ connecting element (25), the connecting element (25) situated to the right in Figure 3 is depicted only in part in order to symbolize this breakage.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 32-38, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~said~~ rotor (117) depicted in Figures 7 and 8 may advantageously be mounted on the ~~said~~ mower (1) in place of the ~~said~~ rotor (17) depicted in particular in Figures 1 and 2.

Thus, the ~~said~~ rotor (117) is also driven in rotation about an axis (117a) that is substantially horizontal and transversal to the ~~said~~ direction of forward travel (3).

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 1-13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the second exemplary embodiment depicted in Figures 7 and 8, the ~~said~~ rotor (117) also comprises a support (124) and at least one conditioning element (123). As Figure 7 shows, the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) is V-shaped. The two fingers (133) of the V-shape extend, during work, in an at least substantially radial direction with respect to the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (117a). The ~~said~~ fingers (133) thus form an active part (126). The central part of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) constitutes a first connecting part (127) intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) to the ~~said~~ support (124) by means of a first connection.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 15-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

By contrast, in the second exemplary embodiment, the ~~said~~ first connection rigidly connects the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) to the ~~said~~ support (124). As a preference, the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) is connected rigidly but removably to the ~~said~~ support (124) by the ~~said~~ first connection.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 22-36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More specifically and in the light of Figures 7 and 8, the ~~said~~ first connecting part (127) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) has a relatively flat shape. For its part, the ~~said~~

support (124) comprises at least one connecting element (125) also equipped with a relatively flat part. A screw (60) allows the ~~said~~ first connecting part (127) to be pressed firmly against the ~~said~~ connecting element (125) so as to make the ~~said~~ first connection. The ~~said~~ support (124) additionally consists of a tube (138) the longitudinal axis of which is coincident with the axis of rotation (117a) of the ~~said~~ rotor (117). This time, the ~~said~~ connecting element (125) is fixed to the surface of the ~~said~~ tube (138) by welding, for example, so as not to be removable.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 38 to page 13, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to an important feature of the present invention, a second connection is provided, this being intended to connect the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) to the ~~said~~ support (124) should the ~~said~~ first connection break.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 5-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the second exemplary embodiment, should the ~~said~~ first connection break, the ~~said~~ second connection is made more specifically between the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) and the ~~said~~ connecting element (125). As a preference, the ~~said~~ second connection is made between a second connecting part (129) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) and the ~~said~~ connecting element (125).

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 14-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To achieve this and in the light of Figure 7, the ~~said~~ second connecting part (129) has two lugs (61). Each lug (61) has a branch directed radially towards the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (117a) and a branch directed along the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (117a). The ~~said~~ lugs (61) are advantageously directed towards one another so that, when viewed along the ~~said~~ axis of rotation (117a), the distance separating the ~~said~~ lugs (61) involves a narrowing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 24-33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For its part, the ~~said~~ support (125) has an entry area (156) allowing the ~~said~~ second connecting part (129) to pass the narrowing. The ~~said~~ support (125) also comprises a holding area (158) intended to collaborate with the ~~said~~ lugs (61) of the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) so as to produce the ~~said~~ second connection. Viewed in the direction of rotation (18) of the ~~said~~ support (124), the ~~said~~ entry area (156) is advantageously arranged forward of the ~~said~~ holding area (158).

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 35-38, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to make the present invention easier to understand, Figure 8 depicts only two conditioning elements (123) connected to the ~~said~~ respective connecting element (125).

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 1-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The conditioning element (123) situated to the left in Figure 8 is depicted in the normal work position. ~~Said~~ The conditioning element (123) is therefore connected to the ~~said~~ support (124) by means of the ~~said~~ first connection. The ~~said~~ lugs (61) of the ~~said~~ second connecting part (129) are not in contact with the ~~said~~ holding area (158). The ~~said~~ second connection is therefore without effect.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 10-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

By contrast, the conditioning element (123) situated to the right in Figure 8 is depicted following breakage of the ~~said~~ first connection. As the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) is driven by centrifugal force, the ~~said~~ lugs (61) therefore come into contact with the ~~said~~ holding area (158). As shown by Figure 7, since the width of the ~~said~~ holding area (158) is greater than the ~~said~~ narrowing between the said lugs (61), the ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) will therefore not be ejected from the ~~said~~ support (124). The ~~said~~ conditioning element (123) situated to the right in Figure 8 is thus connected to the ~~said~~ support (124) by means of the ~~said~~ second connection.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 24-32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a preference, when the ~~said~~ lugs (61) are in contact with the ~~said~~ holding area (158), the ~~said~~ narrowing between the ~~said~~ lugs (61) is situated outside of the ~~said~~ entry area (156). This is particularly visible in the right-hand part of Figure 8. Thus, should the ~~said~~

first connection break, there is no risk of the ~~said~~ second connecting part (129) crossing the ~~said~~ entry area (156). The ~~said~~ second connection is therefore perfectly safe.

Please replace the Abstract at page 16, lines 1-13, with the following rewritten Abstract: